

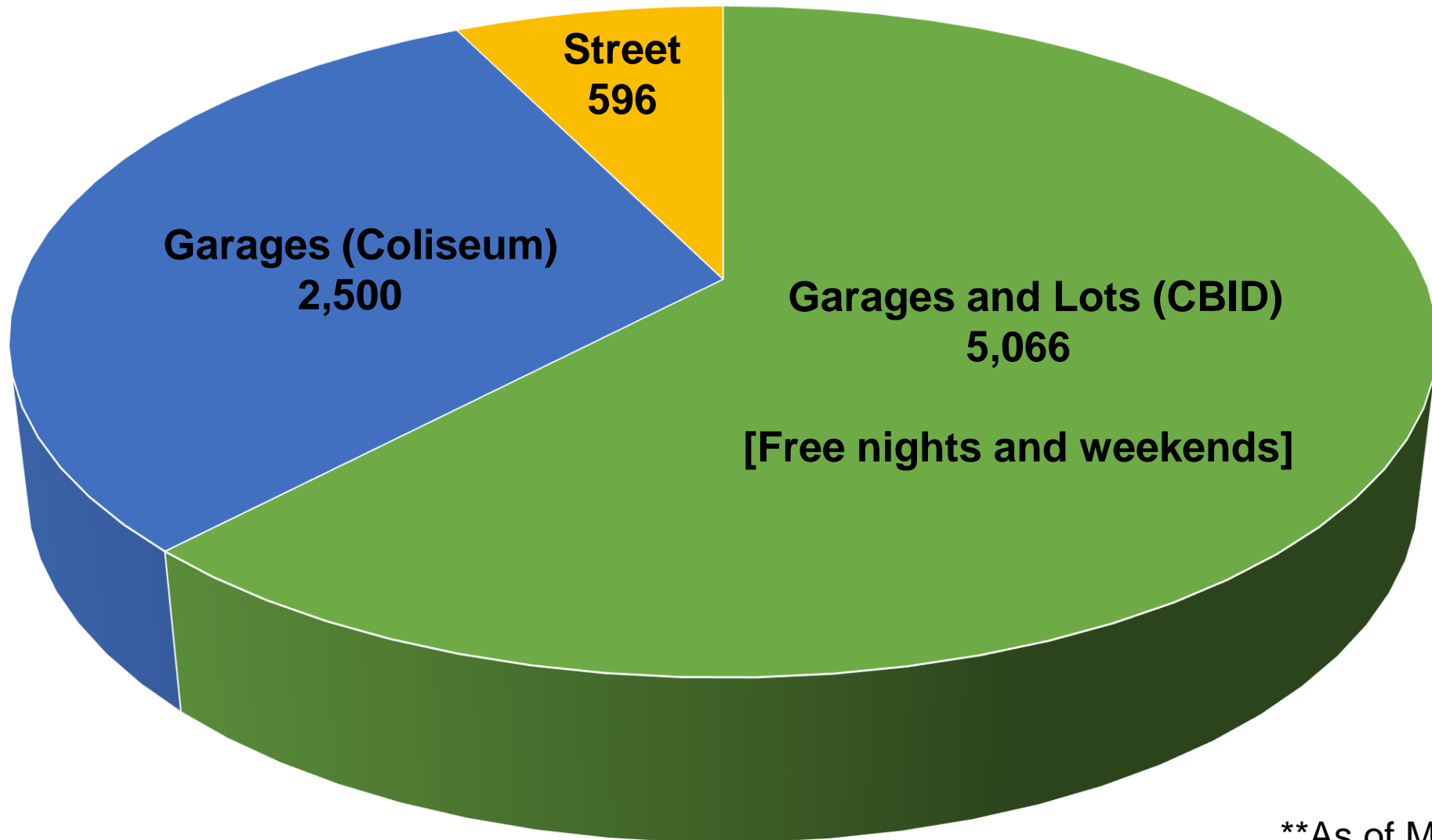


CITY OF KNOXVILLE

## **Downtown Parking Initiative**

**May 26, 2016**

# Downtown Public Parking Spaces

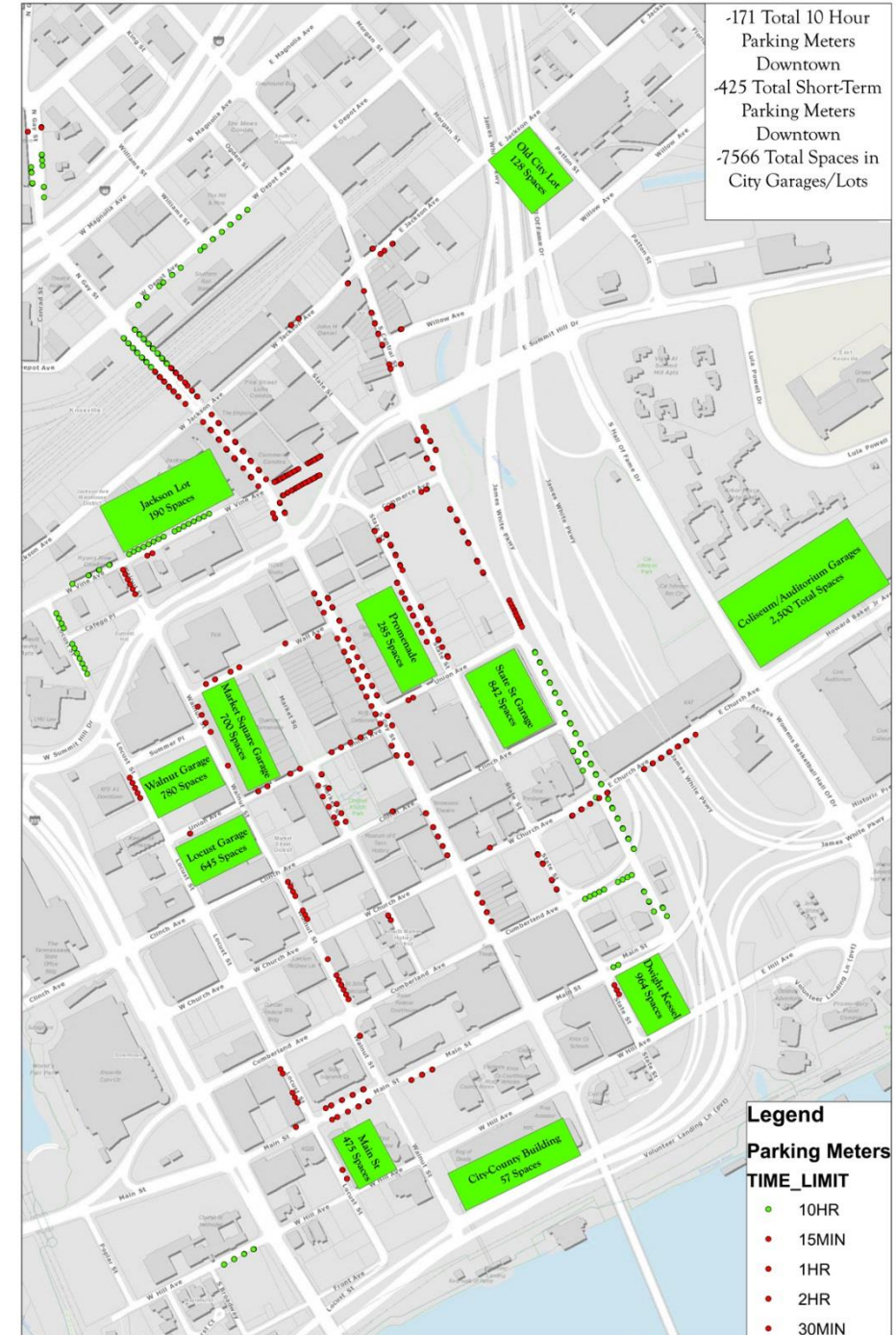
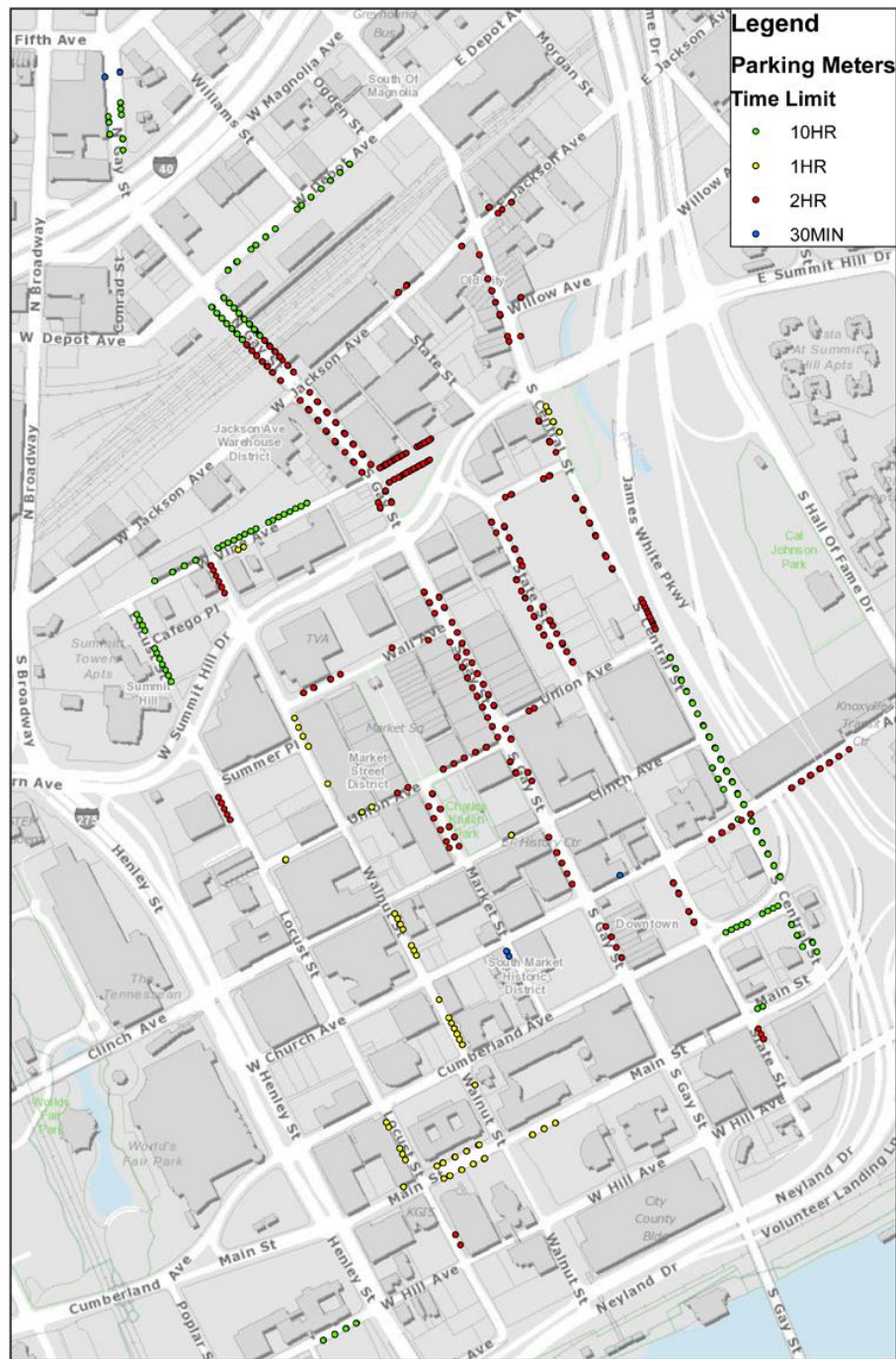


\*\*As of May 26, 2016

# Street Parking

- It is a scarce public resource, which must be managed for maximum public benefit.
- 2 categories of street parking: Short-term and long-term.
- Short-term parking is concentrated in the heart of the CBID, convenient to businesses and restaurants.
- Long-term parking is distributed on the margins of the CBID: Gay Street Viaduct, Depot Avenue, Central Street south of Summit Hill Drive.





# Street Parking

- Short-term rates range from 50 cents/hour to \$1/hour for up to two hours maximum, with no obvious rationale for the variation. (Free after 6 p.m. and on weekends)
- Exception: Gay Street has no meters from Summit Hill to Hill Avenue, but has a two-hour limit Monday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to midnight.
- Current long-term rates are 15 cents/hour, with a 10-hour maximum.

# Street Parking

- Most rates have not changed in more than 10 years.
- Meters are old and long past their useful life. Chronic problems with malfunctions, calls to 311.



# Garages and Lots

- Account for 89 percent of all public parking in the CBID.
- Counting the spaces at the Coliseum, garages and lots account for 93 percent of all public parking in or near downtown.
- During weekdays, City garages charge \$1/hour – more than most street parking. (Free after 6 p.m. and on weekends.)



# Garages and Lots

- Monthly parking rates in garages and lots range from \$40 (Jackson Avenue lot) to \$85 (Market Square Garage).
- Downtown residents get half-off the monthly rates.



# Enforcement

- Currently, the Public Building Authority enforces parking on Gay Street from Summit Hill to Hill Avenue.
- Enforcement elsewhere is handled by Knoxville Police Department cadets and officers, as available.
- Result: Enforcement everywhere but Gay Street is inconsistent and unpredictable.

# Beginning July 2016

- **Garages will remain free after 6 p.m. and on weekends.**
- New meters installed throughout downtown, including the length of Gay Street.
- Will accept credit cards. Most important: **THEY WILL WORK!**
- Sensors will show which spaces are used when.
- Will be app-capable, with apps to come in the future.

# Beginning July 2016

- Meter rates will increase: Short-term parking meters will be \$1.50/hour, with a two-hour maximum.
- The goal is to ensure regular turnover – ideal is 85 percent occupancy per block.
- Long-term meters will be 30 cents/hour, with a 10-hour maximum.
- The southern half of the Gay Street Viaduct will be converted to short-term parking, to accommodate visitors to the 100 Block and Old City.

# Beginning July 2016

- Long-term meters will be on the northern half of the Gay Street Viaduct, Depot Avenue and S. Central Street.
- Meters throughout downtown will be in effect Monday-Saturday.
- Meter hours will be 8 a.m.-10 p.m. on Gay Street and around Market Square, and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. everywhere else.
- PBA will enforce street meters throughout downtown.



# Beginning July 2016

- Monthly rates in City garages throughout CBID will rise \$5/month (\$2.50 a month for downtown residents).
- Monthly daytime commuter parking at the Coliseum – currently \$20/month -- will **decrease** to \$15/month.
- New trolley routes serve the Coliseum garage every 7 to 8 minutes all day on weekdays. (Coliseum garage is only a 5-minute walk from Gay Street.)

# **Beginning July 2016**

- Funds generated from parking fees will be used to support parking infrastructure and downtown amenities.

# Still to Come

- Parking apps for meters.
- New technology for garages
- All parts of the system will be monitored and re-evaluated depending on demand and usage. The goal for street parking is to maintain an 85 percent occupancy rate.
- Things will keep changing as downtown changes, but any change will come with public notice and discussion.